REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 17, 2003, the Office indicated that claims 282-289 were allowed, and further, that the remaining claims were rejected variously pursuant to 35 U.S.C § 102, 103 and under 35 U.S.C § 101 for both statutory, as well as obvious type double patenting.

In the recent Action, the Office indicated that claims 52, 76, 263, 266, 269-274, 277, 278, 299, 302, 305, 309, 312, 316, 321, 332-337, 340, 341, 347, 348, 350 and 351 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Yet further, claims 59-61, 65-67, 297, 317-320, 322-324 and 358 were also deemed allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection as set forth under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph as outlined in the Office Action.

Still further, claim 354 was objected to because of informalities, but would be allowable if amended appropriately.

Applicant has amended the claims in the present application consistent with the holding of the Office as to the objected to, and other potentially allowable claims noted above. Furthermore, Applicant has amended the dependencies of several of the claims as provided herewith in order to remove the statutory and other obvious double patenting rejections as set forth in the most recent Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, it would appear that the enclosed claims are now in condition for allowance and Applicant would respectfully request a Notice of Allowance on claims 52-61, 65-67, 76-79, 263-266, 269-274, 277, 278, 282-289, 290-294, 297, 299, 302-307, 309-316, 321-324, 332-337, 347, 348, 353-358 in the Office's next action.

Applicant, by and through their counsel, would request that the Office telephone the attorneys in the event that a further telephone conference could expedite the prompt handling of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _20 JAN 04_   By: _____
George G. Grigel
Reg. No. 31,166